Embarrassing words spoken by President Donald Trump

MITCH ALBOM, 17A

WOLVERINES 82, NO. 4 SPARTANS 72

U-M PULLS OFF UPSET

Michigan State's Bridges: We gave it away.

SPORTS, 1C

ON GUARD FOR 186 YEARS

Sunday Free Press

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018 ▫ FREEP.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ilitch parking ruling a $1M bonanza

City allows break on LCA lot designs to maximize spaces

Joe Guillen Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Ilitch organization can make as much as $1 million more annually from its Little Caesars Arena parking operations thanks to favorable rulings from Detroit's buildings department.

The Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department approved permits dating to 2016 allowing the Ilitch family's parking companies to build or renovate 18 parking lots throughout the Cass Corridor without including any landscaping inside the lots, which is required under the city's zoning code.

By approving the parking lots without interior landscaping, the city allowed the Ilitch organization to maximize the number of spaces

FREE PRESS INVESTIGATION

in their parking lots in a way other downtown parking lot owners could not, a Free Press investigation has found. The newspaper examined property records, site plans and building permits of the Ilitch family's parking operations as part of its review.

Had the city enforced the zoning code as it is written, the parking lots would have been required to include more than 50,000 square feet of landscaping inside the 18 surface lots.

By avoiding the landscaping requirement, the surface lots contain an additional 269 parking spaces combined, which can generate an estimated $1 million annually in parking revenues from fans and concertgoers attending events at Little Caesars Arena.

See PARKING, Page 6A

NATION, 2A

African envoys call for apology

The president's remarks drew condemnation from African U.N. ambassadors.

SUNDAY LIFE, 1D

Women's March 2018 events

If you're interested in one of the Jan. 20-21 events, we have the details.

Inside today's Free Press

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Weather

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DETROIT AUTO SHOW

FOLLOW LIVE COVERAGE ON FREEP.COM ALL WEEK

Big trucks and tech to steal show

Joe Price cleans cars at the Chevrolet exhibit Friday ahead of the North American International Auto Show. Luxury pickups, SUVs and autonomous vehicles are expected to take center stage. RYAN GARZA/DFP

Greg Gardner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Imagine for a moment the scene if Henry Ford, Alfred Sloan and the Dodge brothers were entering Cobo Center for the 2018 North American International Auto Show.

First, they would marvel at how their visions have evolved. But they might also be confused by what appear to be two shows.

In the main hall, let's call it the Frontierland, they would see the latest examples of how affluent Americans get around. Luxury pickups and SUVs packed

See AUTO SHOW, Page 8A

Ford is reintroducing its midsize Ranger pickup in the U.S. market for 2019. FORD

The new truck wars

On the eve of the 2018 North American International Auto Show, of which trucks will be the stars, Chevrolet unveils its full-size 2019 Silverado pickup and Ford releases details of its new Ranger pickup.

See Michigan Business, 1B

CELEBRATING A LEGACY
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

King visit to Mich. 50 years ago recalled

Grosse Pointe Farms speech marked by playing of audio

Kimberly Hayes Taylor
Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gordon and Judy Morlan knew the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was scheduled to speak in Grosse Pointe Farms on the night of March 14, 1968, and they weren't going to miss it.

The budding Democratic activists and teachers remember parking five blocks away from Grosse Pointe High School, where the speech would be delivered, and trudging through blizzard-like conditions to get there in time.

The scene was intense.

Protesters were outside screaming and shouting, and the school had been shut down for a bomb sweep and security check. When they arrived, the Morlans waited by the curb near the street, taking in the scene. Moments later, a dark-colored sedan pulled up, stopping right before them. Gordon Morlan assumed it was someone searching for the school, so he opened the car door. To his surprise, inside was King sitting in the backseat with the Grosse Pointe Farms police chief sitting on his lap to protect him. The chief slid off King, and the famous south-

See KING, Page 5A

▫ **More inside:** Find a Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration near you. **5A**

▫ **A Better Michigan:** "The Other America" King described still exists today. **19A**

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